

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 307459
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

S E C R E T STATE 307459

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE

TAGS: PINT, UV

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 4756

1. YOU WERE CORRECT IN YOUR INITIAL REPLY TO FONMIN KARGOUGOU'S REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD BE OUT OF LINE WITH CURRENT ADMINISTRATION POLICY, QUITE APART FROM THE FACT THAT THE WISDOM AND PROPRIETY OF SUCH SUPPORT IS HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE. US RELATIONS WITH THE LAMIZANA GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY WARM AND CLOSE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A NEGATIVE REPLY TO KARGOUGOU'S REQUEST WILL BE A FACTOR IN THE DURABILITY OF THESE GOOD RELATIONS.

2. IN MAKING YOUR REPLY TO KARGOUGOU, YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLWOING POINTS:

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A) THERE IS REAL SUPPORT IN WASHINGTON FOR PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S EFFORTS TO RETURN UPPER VOLTA TO CIVILIAN RULE. IT COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN US FOREIGN POLICY.

B) PRESIDENT LAMIZANA IS HIGHLY REGARDED FOR HIS DEDICATION AND UNSELFISH EFFORTS TO FACE UPPER VOLTA'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE PRESIDENT IS CONSIDERING SEEKING REELECTION.

C) THE US IS NOT IN A POSITION TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO KARGOUGOU'S REQUEST.

D) THE USG BELIEVES THAT OPEN EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT, SUCH AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE DECEMBER 11, ARE THE BEST MEANS OF INDICATING US SUPPORT FOR UPPER VOLTA'S RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE AND PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S ROLE IN IT. THERE MAY BE SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO EXPRESS THESE SENTIMENTS.

E) WE ARE FOLLOWING THE PRESENT CROP SITUATION CLOSELY AND WISH TO PREVENT ANY DEFICITS FROM BECOMING NEGATIVE FACTORS IN THE MAY ELECTIONS. OF COURSE, WE MUST AVOID A RECURRENCE OF THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS (ACCOUNTING FOR COUNTERPART FUNDS GENERATED BY FOOD SALES) WHICH CAUSED PROBLEMS WITH OUR PROGRAM LAST YEAR.

F) WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. OVER THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS THERE MAY BE SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHICH PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES TO EMPHASIZE THE CLOSE BONDS THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO
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GOVERNMENTS.

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